

In the specification:

**Page 1, line 3, change the heading "Prior Art" to --
Background of the Invention --.**

Amend the first paragraph on page 1 as follows:

The invention concerns a piezoelectric actuator, e.g., to actuate
a mechanical component such as a valve or the like[, according to the
features-based on the general class-of the primary claim].

✓ **On page 1, line 21, change the heading "Advantages of the
Invention" to -- Summary of the Invention --.**

After this heading please insert the following paragraph:

-- In keeping with these objects and with others which will
become apparent hereinafter, one feature of present invention resides,
briefly stated in a piezoelectric actuator, comprising a multilayer structure of
piezoelectric plies; internal electrodes and external electrodes, said internal

electrodes being arranged between said piezoelectric plies and having a lateral contacting in alternate direction of said internal electrodes with said external electrodes having two different polarities, two consecutive internal electrodes having a same polarity always comprise one internal electrode always having the other polarity between them and having a common contact point with their assigned external electrode, one of the two internal electrodes having the same polarity passing all the way through the piezoelectric actuator from a side of its contacting with said external electrode to an opposite side, the other internal electrode having the same polarity always terminating with clearance on a side of the piezoelectric actuator opposite to its contacting, the internal electrode passing all the way through the piezoelectric actuator terminating in a region of the piezoelectric actuator that is bridged over to prevent a short circuit of said external throat arranged there. --

✓On page 3, in line 24, change the heading "Diagram" to --
Brief Description of the Drawings --.

✓On page 4, line 8, change "Description of the Exemplary
Embodiments" to -- **Description of the Preferred Embodiments --.**

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a mechanical component such as a valve or the like.

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